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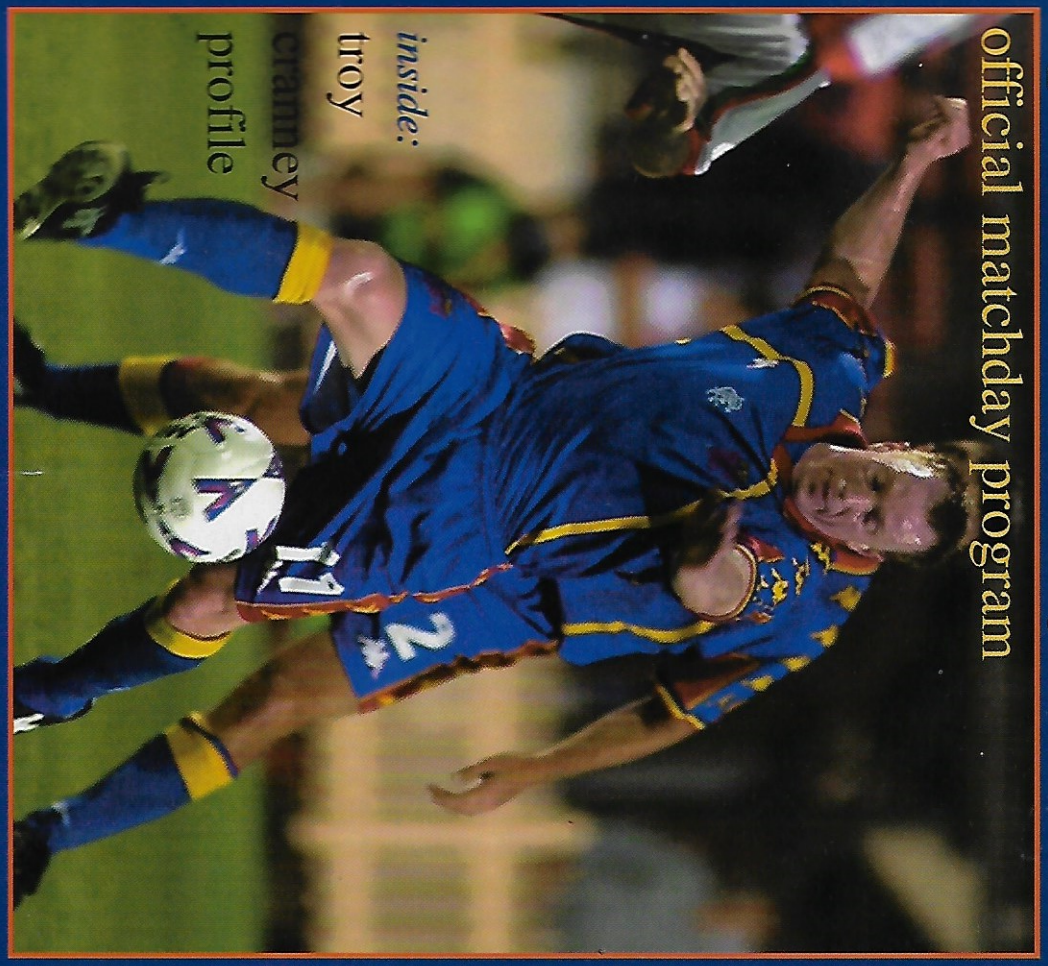
# spirit v brisbane strikers

friday december 22
kick-off 7.30pm

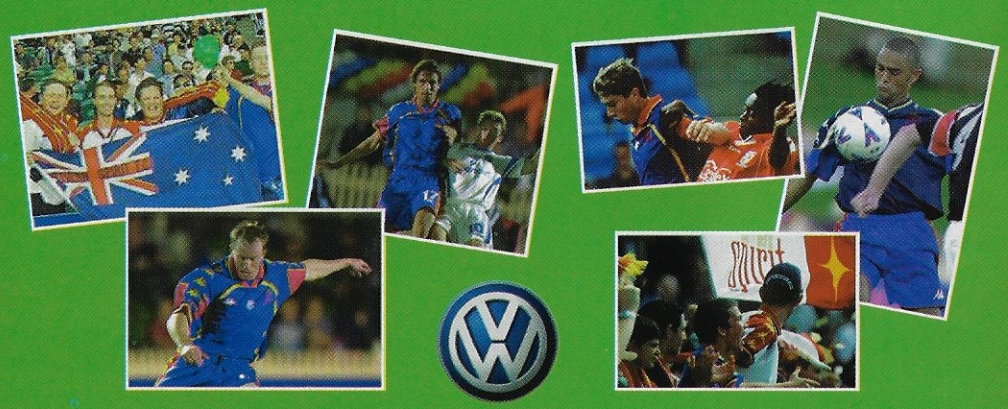
# spirit matchday

## official matchday program



*inside:*
troy
cranney
profile

# A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN!



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# contents

In your latest issue of Spirit Matchday:


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| Page 8 | Today's squads |
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| Page 10 | Latest Spirit fan's views. |
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NEXT HOME GAME: Round 13

5/1/01 NORTHERN SPIRIT vs Canberra Cosmos 7.30pm North Sydney Oval

**Please note change of venue and date**

# club captain's column

*with Robbie Slater*

With Christmas upon us I thought it would be the right time to run over Northern Spirit's progress so far this season.

There is no doubt that we have gone ahead in leaps and bounds from last season.

Arnie was able to get some experienced NSL players into the side during the off season and having Fozzie join the club has also been a big help.

We look a lot more solid as a team with depth and strength right across the park.

As an example, injury has meant that Noel Spencer has only played five games, Chi Chi has played six games and I have been able to play just three games, and we have not suffered too badly.

Guys like Troy Cranney and Robbie Enes have stepped up a gear and carried us through.

Up front we have strikers who know how to find the back of the net. Ben Burgess has been great, as has Alex Moreira, and Ryan Griffiths has also looked dangerous when he has been on the field.

Defensively we have been tremendous.

Michael Cunico and Matthew Bingley have done the job against some of the best attacking forces in the NSL and Arnie has added a new dimension at sweeper with his experience and talking at the back.

Hendo has also fought back well after missing out for the first match against Sydney United and has rediscovered the confidence he had throughout the first year. His ability under the crosses has improved dramatically this season under goalkeeper coach Steve Watson.

Tonight we face up to the Brisbane Strikers and we will be looking to continue our march up the NSL ladder.

With former Socceroo striker John Kosmina in charge we know they will come out fired up and it is going to be a very tough contest at North Sydney Oval tonight.

On behalf of Northern Spirit I would like to wish all our valued fans a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to a bigger and better 2001.


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Parramatta

**Paul's Warehouse -**
Homebush

**Rebel -**
Broadway
Chatswood
Sydney City
Brookvale

**Insport -**
North Sydney

**Grace Bros -**
Sydney City
Brookvale
Chatswood
Miranda
Macquarie

# profile troy cranney

The 1996/97 NSL Grand Final was a special occasion not only for our visitors to North Sydney Oval, the Brisbane Strikers, but also for one of the players that will oppose them tonight.

Troy Cranney was a member of Frank Farina's team that stunned the NSL by finishing second in the regular season, and then going on to defeat Sydney United in the Grand Final in front of over 40,000 fans.

"It was definitely the highlight of my career," recalls Cranney. "We surprised everyone but we had some good experienced players, and Frank Farina had just come back from overseas. He was a class above everyone else and is the best player I have played alongside."

In the constantly changing world of football Cranney admits that while he still looks for the Strikers results, the moving on of most of his former team mates means he isn't as aware of what's happening up in Brisbane.

"Obviously I was kept well informed when my brother Sean was playing up there, but then he came down and played for the Spirit last season. There's a bit of an extra incentive playing against your former club but it has to just be another game - you still have to prepare the same. The main thing is we need to start picking up some wins at home"

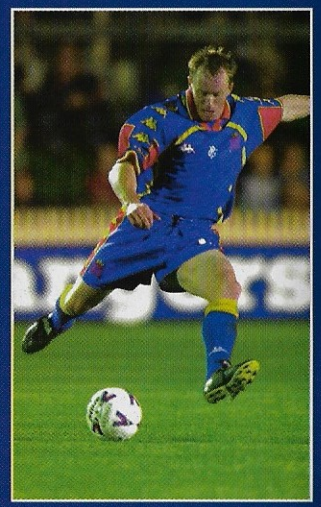
Many observers have Cranney down as being one of Spirit's best this season. Cranney will only say he is reasonably happy with his form and that he has been 'consistent'.

It could have all been different if Cranney had not changed his mind about retiring, but he knows that if he had packed it in he would be lost without the game.

"Eventually I just thought I was too young to retire - plus I wouldn't have known what to do with myself!" the 28 year old said.

Cranney points to a more confident squad this season at Northern Spirit as a reason for his improved form, and says that as long as he is involved in the game doesn't mind if he's playing out wide or in the middle.

"It can be hard sometimes out wide as you can go a while without seeing the ball - I like to get a few touches of the ball and get in there. And I want to get a few more goals too!"



One of the most durable players while at Brisbane - Cranney missed just six games in six seasons - a bad injury forced him out early in his Northern Spirit career.

"It was hard when I got injured, we'd had a long pre-season approaching our first ever game and then a few weeks later I was out for the season. It made it difficult sitting on the sidelines in that first season, and to be honest it probably took longer than I thought to get fit again."

The Brisbane local boy will soon pass a significant milestone, as after finishing last season on 234 NSL games, Cranney is fast approaching the 250 mark.

"I did know I was close to 250 but when I retired I thought I would be stuck on 234. You see the matchday programmes though and know that you are approaching something like this."

With a contract to the end of the season, and being hopeful of getting another one, Cranney says his ambition in a strong squad was to simply cement a regular spot in the starting XI. His performances so far look like seeing that ambition fully realised.

# TODAY'S SQUADS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | John Perosh |
| 2 | Michael Cunico |
| 3 | Matthew Langdon |
| 4 | Matthew Bingley |
| 5 | Mark Rudan |
| 6 | Scott Thomas |
| 7 | Robbie Slater |
| 8 | Robbie Enes |
| 9 | Alex Moreira |
| 10 | Gabriel Mendez |
| 11 | Troy Cranney |
| 12 | Ben Burgess |
| 13 | Phil Moss |
| 14 | Noel Spencer |
| 15 | Tony Perinich |
| 16 | Simon Catanzaro |
| 17 | Paul Bilokapic |
| 18 | Daniel Watkins |
| 19 | Ryan Griffiths |
| 20 | Paul Henderson |
| 21 | Adam Griffiths |
| 22 | Jacek Sobczyk |
| 23 | Adam Snyder |
| 24 | Tony Faria |
| 28 | Ian Crook |
| 30 | Graham Arnold |

COACH: Graham Arnold

| | |
|---|---|
| Daniel Duke | 1 |
| Glenn Gwynne | 2 |
| Shane Stefanutto | 3 |
| Jon McKain | 4 |
| Matthew Bell | 5 |
| Peter Grierson | 6 |
| Russell Miner | 7 |
| Adam Webber | 8 |
| Paul Foster | 9 |
| | 10 |
| Peter Dwyer | 11 |
| David Pilic | 12 |
| Stuart McLaren | 13 |
| Jade North | 14 |
| Andrew Davidson | 15 |
| Shane Smeltz | 16 |
| Jeromy Harris | 17 |
| Nick Meredith | 18 |
| Wade Baldwin | 19 |
| Nathan Coe | 20 |
| Lawrence Drake | 21 |
| Fernando Rech | 22 |
| Corey Baldock | 30 |

COACH: John Kosmina

## opposition lowdown

We welcome tonight a Brisbane Strikers team to North Sydney Oval, who travel south on the back of a 1-1 draw against the Football Kingz in the last round of action.

It was the fourth draw in ten games for the Strikers, and with two wins they are sitting in 13th spot on the ladder. Given the tightness of the competition though a win here tonight could even see them move into the top ten.

With coach John Kosmina, credited with scoring the first ever NSL goal back in 1977, in charge, the Strikers will provide stern opposition for us in our last home game of the year 2000.

In goal Kosmina has two inexperienced players vying for the position - Daniel Duke had less than a dozen NSL games under his belt at the start of the season, and Corey Baldock none.

With the experienced Glenn Gwynne expected to be out for the season with a knee injury, the defence is expected to comprise of local boy Andrew Davidson, with Shane Stefanutto patrolling on the left.

Another defender, Jon McKain, is struggling to be fit for this one, but Matthew Bell and skipper Stuart McLaren are likely to be in the heart of the Strikers defence.

Peter Grierson is another who could miss the game tonight through injury, but the Strikers still have 18 year-old midfielder Jade North, the experienced Nick Meredith and Jeromy Harris in the middle of the park. Harris missed last week's draw with the Kingz through suspension, but the former Marconi player should be back in the thick of the action tonight.

The Brazilian Fernando Rech will need to be marked closely tonight as he looks to show his full range of skills, while Paul Foster has already netted five times this season, one behind the leading NSL marksmen.

Peter Dwyer provides competition up-front but can also play on the left-hand side of midfield, but another player who would have been in contention, David Pilic, is another on the Strikers injury list.

Kosmina is expected to have the likes of young defender Adam Webber, midfielder Lawrence Drake and striker Shane Smeltz on his bench, in what is essentially a young squad mixed with a few experienced heads around them.

Brisbane Strikers last five games:
L D W D D.

Brisbane Strikers 2000/01 record:
Pos 13 P 10 W 2 D 4 L 4 GF 13 GA 17 Pts. 10

# fan's view

with Rebecca Carey

Proving that its worth buying Spirit Matchday every home game, Fly with the Team winner Jon McIlveen comments on his trip with the squad to watch the round 8 game against Carlton.

"I was fortunate enough to win the trip and travel with Northern Spirit and watch them play Carlton on December 3rd. Traveling with the team was a memory that I will treasure, with the team, coaching staff and management making us feel like we belonged.

The game ended a 1-1 draw and was a good effort in the hot conditions.

So to all who attend the home games, the next time they offer a trip with the team, put an entry in the box. Thanks to the club for a once in a lifetime trip!

Go Spirit!" Jon McIlveen

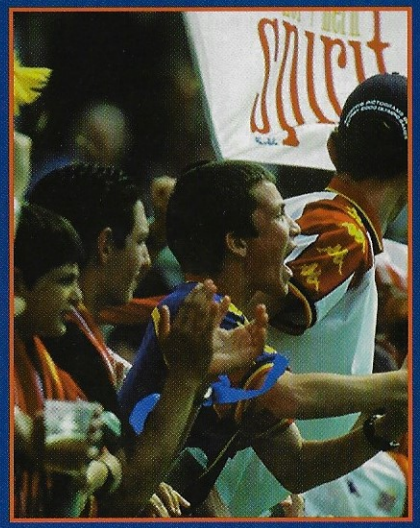
Northern Spirit merchandise is now on sale at North Sydney Leagues Club. The shop is open 7 days a week from 10am through to 10pm, and members get a 10% discount.

So if you are looking for that ideal Christmas present get up to:
North Sydney Leagues Club
12 Abbott Street
Cammeray.

A reminder too that this page is for YOU, so please send anything in you wish to have included. If you have pictures of you wearing your shirts in unusual places send them too - either email to nsfc98@yahoo.com or MarkFowler@bigpond.com, or see one of the committee.

Northern Spirit Supporters club contact details:
Infoline (02) 8250 4004
Email: nsfc98@yahoo.com
Website: www.spiritfans.com.au

In addition to the Spirit fans website, check out www.northernspirit.com.au for any information regarding the club. Here you can find the latest information on away games, and coming soon will be text updates, so you can follow all the action be it at WIN Stadium or Ericsson Stadium!




# match report

with Mark Fowler

## SPIRIT UNBEATEN STREAK HITS FOUR WITH 1-1 DRAW AT KNIGHTS

Northern Spirit remained in the top six with a tough 1-1 draw against a rejuvenated Melbourne Knights in oppressive conditions in Melbourne last Sunday.

With temperatures soaring to 36 degrees in the north-west of Melbourne the Spirit held strong in the first half before having a go at the Knights in the second half.

The first half was a drab affair with the scores locked at 0-0 but with a cool change coming across Melbourne at half time the game changed and Ben Burgess put the Spirit in front with a strong goal in the 48th minute.

Burgess received the ball 40m from goal and held off his marker in a 20m run before slotting the ball into the bottom right hand corner with a deft finish.

It was Burgess's 6th goal of the season and launched him to the top of the NSL leading goalscorers list.

Northern Spirit continued to attack after going ahead 1-0 and were unlucky not to kill off the Knights when an Alex Moreira shot cannoned off the crossbar and narrowly evaded Burgess, who was following the shot.

The Knights struck in the 65th minute when a Paul Henderson save dribbled to Knights striker Joel Porter, who made no mistake.

Michael Cunico

The draw stretched Northern Spirit's unbeaten record to four games and allowed the side to remain in 6th place.

"We would have preferred to win the game and if that shot that hit the post went in we would have killed them off but as I have said before we will take a point away from home," Arnold said. "What we need to do is start winning matches at home and that starts with Brisbane."

While Burgess was shooting to the top of the goalscoring list it was at the other end when Spirit was once again well served with Matthew Bingley and Michael Cunico doing a good job in tough conditions.

Northern Spirit has now conceded just 9 goals in 10 games to have the best defence in the NSL.

"Defensively we were good and with other results we now have the best defence in the league," Arnold said. "Coons and Bingers have been doing well week in, week out."

Craig Foster

# spirit round-up

## R10 results

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15.12.00 | Newcastle United | 0 - 0 | South Melbourne |
| 16.12.00 | Parramatta Power | 2 - 0 | Eastern Pride |
| 16.12.00 | Canberra Cosmos | 2 - 3 | Sydney Olympic |
| 16.12.00 | Brisbane Strikers | 1 -1 | Kingz FC |
| 16.12.00 | Wollongong Wolves | 2 - 0 | Sydney United |
| 16.12.00 | Marconi Stallions | 0 - 2 | Adelaide City Force |
| **17.12.00** | **Melbourne Knights** | **1 - 1** | **NORTHERN SPIRIT** |
| 17.12.00 | Carlton | P-P | Perth Glory |

**Next game - Friday 29/12/00**
**P'matta Power v Northern Spirit**
**7.30pm Parramatta Stadium**

## R11 draw

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fri 22.12.00** | **NORTHERN SPIRIT vs Brisbane Strikers** | **7.30pm** | **North Sydney Oval** |
| Fri 22.12.00 | Adelaide City Force vs Melbourne Knights | 8.00pm | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| Fri 22.12.00 | Kingz FC vs Parramatta Power | 7.30pm | Ericsson |
| Sat 23.12.00 | Perth Glory vs Marconi Stallions | 7.00pm | Perth Oval |
| Sat 23.12.00 | Eastern Pride vs Canberra Cosmos | 7.00pm | Mobil Park |
| Sat 23.12.00 | Sydney United vs South Melbourne | 6.30pm | Syd U'td Sport Centre |
| Sat 23.12.00 | Sydney Olympic vs Wollongong Wolves | 6.30pm | Belmore Sports Ground |
| Sat 23.12.00 | Carlton vs Newcastle United | TBA | TBA |

## 2000/01 Competition ladder

| POS | TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sydney Olympic | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 9 | 20 |
| 2 | Wollongong Wolves | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 20 |
| 3 | South Melbourne | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 9 | 19 |
| 4 | Perth Glory | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 17 |
| 5 | Parramatta Power | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 13 | 16 |
| **6** | **NORTHERN SPIRIT** | **10** | **3** | **5** | **2** | **13** | **9** | **14** |
| 7 | Melbourne Knights | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 16 | 14 |
| 8 | Carlton | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 13 |

| POS | TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | PT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Marconi Stallions | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 13 |
| 10 | Adelaide City Force | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 16 | 13 |
| 11 | Sydney United | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 20 | 12 |
| 12 | Canberra Cosmos | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 11 |
| 13 | Brisbane Strikers | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 10 |
| 14 | Kingz FC | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 20 | 9 |
| 15 | Newcastle United | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 19 | 7 |
| 16 | Eastern Pride | 10 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 21 | 3 |



# Northern Spirit 2000/2001 National League Fixtures and results

| Rnd | Date | Versus | H/A | Time/Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 15th Oct | Sydney United | A | 1-2 |
| 2 | 20th Oct | Sydney Olympic | H | 0-0 |
| 3 | 28th Oct | Eastern Pride | A | 2-0 |
| 4 | 3rd Nov | Kingz FC | H | 4-2 |
| 5 | 11th Nov | Newcastle Breakers | H | 0-0 |
| 6 | 17th Nov | Adelaide City Force | A | 2-3 |
| 7 | 24th Nov | Perth Glory | H | 2-0 |
| 8 | 3rd Dec | Carlton | A | 1-1 |
| 9 | 8th Dec | Marconi Stallions | H | 0-0 |
| 10 | 17th Dec | Melbourne Knights | A | 1-1 |
| 11 | 22nd Dec | Brisbane Strikers | H | 7:30pm |
| 12 | 29th Dec | Parramatta Power | A | 7.30pm |
| 13 | 5th Jan | Canberra Cosmos | H | 7.30pm |
| 14 | TBA | Wollongong Wolves | A | TBA |
| 15 | 19th Jan | South Melbourne | H | 7:30pm |
| 16 | 26th Jan | Sydney United | H | 5:00pm |
| 17 | 4th Feb | Sydney Olympic | A | 6:30pm |
| 18 | 9th Feb | Eastern Pride | H | 7.30pm |
| 19 | 16th Feb | Kingz FC | A | 7.30pm |
| 20 | 23rd Feb | Newcastle Breakers | A | 7.30pm |
| 21 | 2nd Mar | Adelaide City Force | H | 7.30pm |
| 22 | 10th Mar | Perth Glory | A | 7.00pm |
| 23 | 16th Mar | Carlton | H | 7.30pm |
| 24 | 24th Mar | Marconi Stallions | A | 7.00pm |
| 25 | 30th Mar | Melbourne Knights | H | 7.30pm |
| 26 | 8th Apr | Brisbane Strikers | A | 6:00pm |
| 27 | 13th Apr | Parramatta Power | H | 7.30pm |
| 28 | 21st Apr | Canberra Cosmos | A | 6:30pm |
| 29 | 25th Apr | Wollongong Wolves | H | 3.00pm |
| 30 | 29th Apr | South Melbourne | A | 3.00pm |

# player profile

**Spirit Matchday finds out from Simon Catanzaro just what his favourite things are:**

**Simon Catanzaro**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nickname: | Cat |
| Height: | 176cm |
| Weight: | 77kg |
| Date of Birth: | 1.2.81 |
| Place of Birth: | Blacktown |
| Signed from: | N.S.W.I.S. |
| Previous Clubs: | Marconi |
| Position: | Striker/Midfielder |
| Squad Number: | 16 |

Favourite meal:
*Italian.*

Favourite pre-match meal:
*Pasta.*

Favourite drink:
*Water.*

Favourite music:
*Dance.*

Worst dresser at club:
*No comment!*

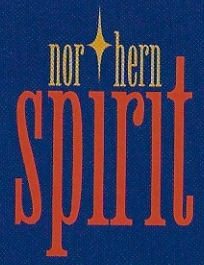
Who will win this year's comp (excluding Northern Spirit):
*South Melbourne.*

Favourite player in your position:
*Maradona or Roberto Baggio.*

Favourite player in the world:
*Rivaldo.*

Favourite other sports star:
*Brian Lara.*

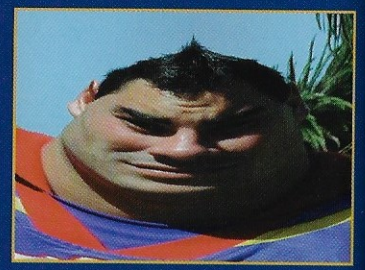
KIDS CLUB




## QUICK QUIZ !!!

**See how you go with these quick questions - see if you can get all three right and score a hat-trick!**

1. True or False - Brisbane Strikers skipper Stuart McLaren played for East Fife in Scotland?
2. How many goals did Sean Cranney score for the Strikers - a 13 b 15 c 17?
3. Who is this Spirit player?



## Want to be a Northern Spirit Mascot?

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**But this isn't the only benefit ... there's much, much more - for only $30.00 you'll get:**

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- Official Team Contract from Coach Graham Arnold
- 2000/2001 Official Team Cap
- 2000/2001 Official Team Poster
- Official Rangers Football Club Gift
- Birthday Card plus 2 complimentary tickets from Captain Chi Chi Mendez
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Sausage Sizzle with the Players
- 10% discount on all Spirit Merchandise

**To join phone Spirit Headquaters NOW on 9460 2187**

**Answers:** 1 False - it was Stirling Albion 2 c 17 3 Matthew Langdon



## WORD SEARCH

Included in this jumble of letters are the surnames of the seven NSL strikers listed below. The names can appear in any line - vertically, horizontally or diagonally, and can be backwards or forwards! When you've got all names, look for a player who featured prominently in the news last weekend...

NSL strikers:

Vlahos
Mori
Foster
Stevens
Trimboli
Burgess
Tome

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| n | s | f | n | i | b | o | t | x |
| s | j | m | q | u | m | o | r | i |
| v | s | m | o | r | e | i | i | g |
| b | l | e | b | c | f | c | m | f |
| r | e | a | g | t | f | m | b | o |
| l | m | l | h | r | p | f | o | s |
| s | o | m | s | o | u | l | l | t |
| f | t | e | r | t | s | b | i | e |
| d | s | n | e | v | e | t | s | r |

## Meet the Mascot

Congratulations to tonight's lucky OYSC winner who will be running out with the team.

Name: Murray Barker
Age: 12
From: Forestville
Favourite Player: Robbie Slater

**Wordsearch answer: Alex TOBIN**

# latest news & views

The official accommodation supplier of Northern Spirit - Rydges North Sydney is offering Spirit supporters a special accommodation package. Spirit fans can make matchdays a special night out and stay at Rydges North Sydney for only $100.00 from Friday - Sunday (includes breakfast for two). A special weekday rate (Mon - Thurs) of $168.00 is also available to Spirit fans. To book phone 1800 226 466.

News on some of our former players from Soccer Australia - Eddy Bosnar is still a first-team regular at Dinamo Zagreb, while Clayton Zane has spent a week on trial with Swindon Town. Defender Mark Rudan is currently on trial with Belgian first division Club Mechelen, with reports suggesting the player may be signing permanent terms with the club.

A Northern Spirit side went down 1-0 to Fraser Park in a trial game played at Fraser Park's Sydenham headquarters last week.
An early goal to Fraser Park striker Ben Burrows was the difference, Burrows netting with a glancing header which John Perosh could not get down to. It was a good workout for both teams, with the Gerry Gomez-coached Fraser Park using it as their first trial game of the pre-season for the NSW Super League which starts in March.
Northern Spirit: Perosh, Sobczyk, trialist, Ismael Arrarte, Moss, Spencer, McLean, Corte, Vassilli, Antar, Perinich (sub van de Vyver)

Although Adam Griffiths and Daniel Watkins have been unable to help Eastern Pride gain their first win of the season, the players have done enough to impress coach Jeff Hopkins. Both players will remain with Eastern Pride for a further eight weeks, after the initial four-week loan period ended.

Talking of players on loan, Tony Faria has joined Sydney United in such a deal, in an attempt to get a starting spot in the NSL. Faria has made 7 first team appearances for the Spirit, but hasn't figured this term.

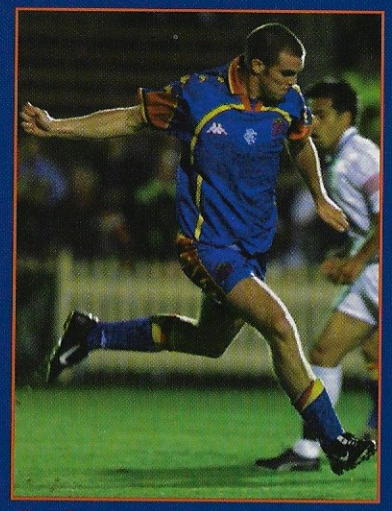
Tony Faria

The Oceania Football Confederation Under-17 Qualifiers have ended in Samoa, with Australia's Under 17 squad enjoying a 100% record.

After trouncing American Samoa 30-0, Papua New Guinea 7-0, the Solomon Islands 1-0 and Samoa 5-0, the Joeys are through to the next stage of the Qualifiers, a two-legged play off against the winner of Group B, which will be known in March next year.

Spirit players Jacob Rex, Alex Wilkinson and Matthew Engele were part of the squad, after Mathew Hunter was forced to withdraw through illness.
Wilkinson played a full game in the record-breaking victory against American Samoa, as he did against Papua New Guinea. In that game Matthew Engele also played, and scored in the 14th minute, while in their toughest game against the Solomon Islands Jacob Rex played a full game in goal and Engele came on as a 65th minute replacement.
The Spirit boys were to the fore in the last game against Samoa, Rex again starting in goal, while Wilkinson was made captain and scored twice, in the 47th and 89th minutes. Engele also played a full game and netted after 69 minutes.

Ben Burgess is now in a four-way tie at the top of the goalscorers chart after his goal last weekend against the Melbourne Knights.
He joins Carlton's Archie Thompson, South Melbourne's Andy Vlahos and Parramatta's Joe Miller on six goals, while a group of five players is just a goal further back including Brisbane's Paul Foster, who will face us tonight.


Ben Burgess

BURGESS Ben Northern Spirit 6
MILLER Joe Parramatta Power 6
THOMPSON Archie Carlton 6
VLAHOS Andy South Melbourne 6
ANGELUCCI Jon Canberra Cosmos 5
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby Perth Glory 5
FOSTER Paul Brisbane Strikers 5
MORI Damian Perth Glory 5

## NORTHERN SPIRIT SCRAPS GOSFORD MATCH AND RETURNS TO NORTH SYDNEY OVAL

Northern Spirit has moved the round 13 match against Canberra Cosmos home to North Sydney Oval following an inspection of the surface at North Power Stadium.

The match was originally set down for North Power Stadium, Gosford on Saturday January 6 but it will now be played at North Sydney Oval on Friday January 5, 2001.

The Northern Spirit v Canberra match will kick off at 7.30pm with a curtain raiser between Northern Spirit Youth Team and the Rangers FC Youth Team to start at 5.30pm.

The decision to move the match was made after Coach Graham Arnold, Director of Football Bill Collins and North Sydney Oval curator Peter Devlin met with officials at North Power Stadium.

The surface has deteriorated further and would not be suitable for an NSL match.

"The field was simply not good enough to host a football match, let alone an NSL match and we decided to come back to North Sydney Oval because it is our home, the fans like it, the players prefer to play there and it is our future," Collins said.

## WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

Northern Spirit has started the redevelopment of the Northern Spirit website and it will be relaunched bigger and better at the end of January.

The new website will feature more news and views from the Spirit players, officials, coaches and fans including information on the players, the team and the opposition for each weekend.

It will also include new and exciting competitions, interactive opportunities for the fans, information on Northern Spirit and regular polls.

The drive behind the redevelopment of the website has been to give our fans a top quality website to enable them to feel closer to the club, the team and the players.

To improve the reliability of the website, Northern Spirit has moved the site to a new host to ensure a better service until the new website is relaunched at the end of January.



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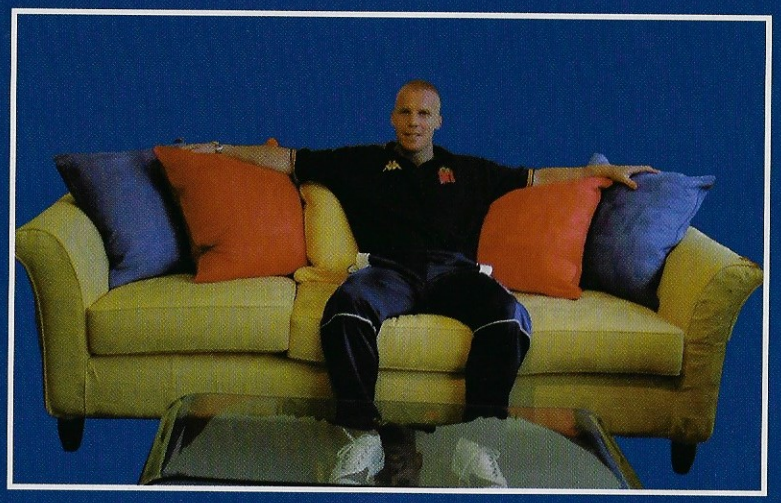
FURNITURE RENTALS



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# national youth league

Northern Spirit's Youth League team fielded a depleted side to face the Marconi Stallions in round 9 action, and ended up going down 2-1.

A day after making an impressive substitute appearance for the first team, Ryan Griffiths opened the scoring in the 26th minute, his 5th of the season, to give the Spirit a half-time lead.

Marconi came back in the second period though, and scored an equaliser in the 58th minute through Josaisa, with Gulessarian netting what proved to be the winner 12 minutes later. With a host of players out through injury, and Matthew Engele, Alex Wilkinson and Jacob Rex all in Samoa (see pages 18 & 19) it was a good effort against a side that has only lost one game so far this season.

Last weekend the team played the Sydney Olympic Academy, but despite our opponents struggling on the ladder we were unable to break them down, and came away with a 0-0 draw.

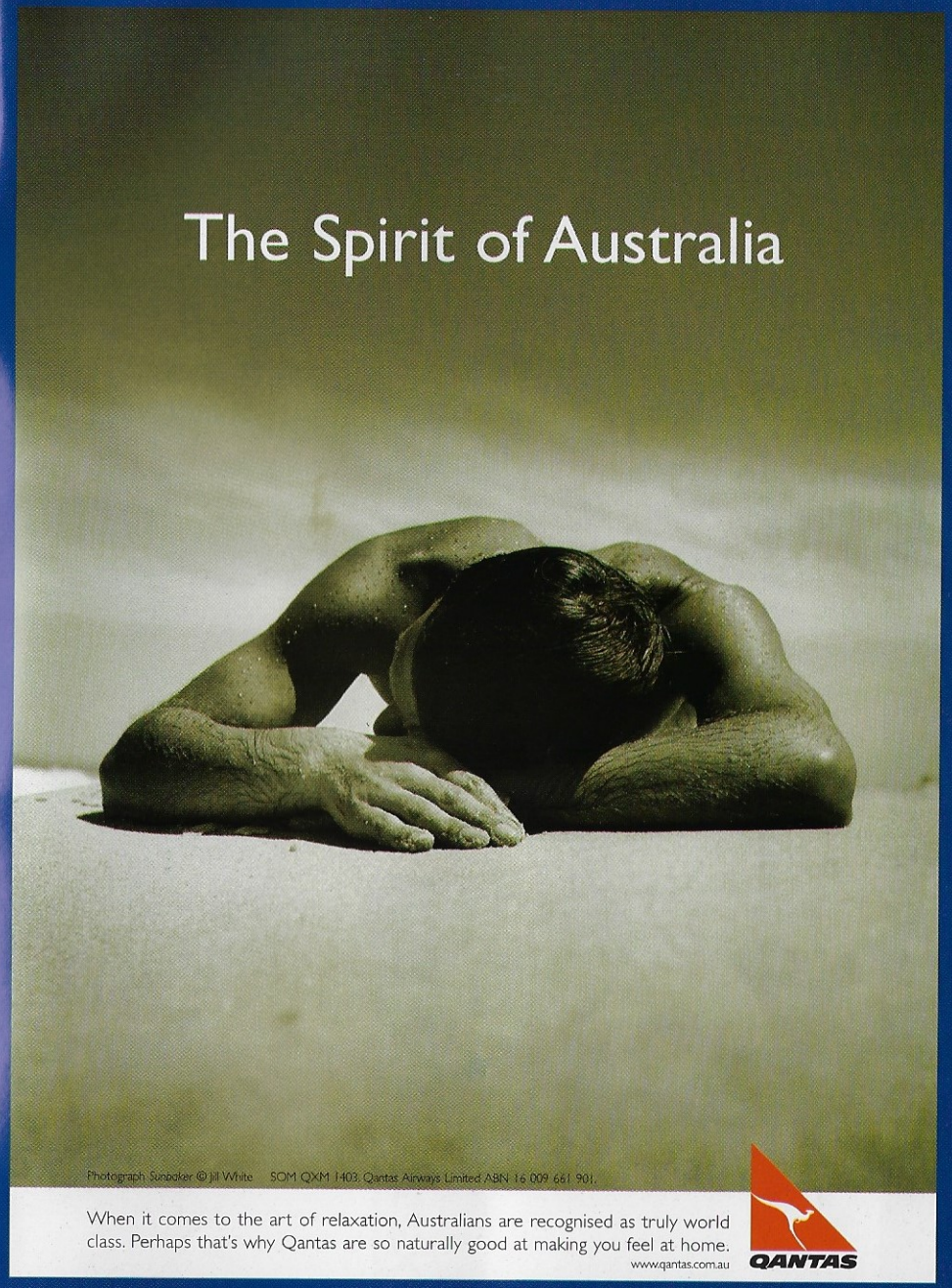
With the round 11 game against the QAS having been rescheduled for the 16th March, 2001, the team has no game this weekend but plays the Parramatta Power at Parramatta Stadium next Friday (29/12) at 5:00pm, before the first team game.

**Youth Team results so far:**

R1 Sydney United 2 NORTHERN SPIRIT 3
R2 NORTHERN SPIRIT 3 Sydney Olympic 2
R3 Newcastle United Colts 0 NORTHERN SPIRIT 6
R4 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 N.S.W.I.S 0
R5 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 Newcastle United Youth 0
R6 A.I.S 1 NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
R7 ACT Academy 0 - 3 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R8 Bye
R9 NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 - 2 Marconi Stallions Youth
R10 Syd Olympic Academy 0-0 NORTHERN SPIRIT

**Forthcoming games:**

R12 Friday 29th December 5.00pm Away Parramatta Power - Parramatta Stadium
R13 TBA Home Canberra Cosmos
R14 Saturday 13th January 4.00 pm Wollongong Wolves - WIN Stadium

**NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2000/2001 NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER**

| Team | P | W | D | B | L | F | A | Pts | Team | P | W | D | B | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A.I.S. | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 9 | 28 | Marconi Colts | 9 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 21 | 14 | 12 |
| Marconi Stallions | 9 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 20 | N.S.W.I.S. | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 11 |
| Parramatta Power | 9 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 13 | 19 | Sydney Olympic | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 19 | 10 |
| NORTHERN SPIRIT | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 7 | 19 | Canberra Cosmos | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 18 | 9 |
| Sydney United | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 14 | 17 | Syd Olympic Acdy | 10 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 19 | 5 |
| Wollongong Wolves | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 14 | N'castle Utd Colts | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 20 | 3 |
| Newcastle United | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 13 | ACT Academy | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 34 | 3 |
| Q.A.S. | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 20 | 32 | 13 | | | | | | | | | |